

Every year, National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) poses challenging questions to our field: What have we accomplished? How are we doing now? Where do we go from here? The 2011 NCVRW theme, *Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past*, reframes these questions as the focus for National Crime Victims' Rights Week. As we recall the progress of recent decades, we resolve that our 2011 NCVRW observance will help advance the future of victims' rights. Working with the media can help meet those goals.

Reaching Out To Reporters

Getting to know newspaper and television reporters can help you reach the largest possible audience. If you already work with reporters on a regular basis, great! You can alert them about the NCVRW observance and suggest victim-centered stories that might pique their interest. Otherwise, you can find out who covers crime in your community by scanning your local newspapers and watching local television news. Make a list of reporters who cover crime, and update that list as often as you can. You can contact reporters directly, offering yourself as a resource or letting them know when they have done a particularly good job in covering victim-related issues. Anytime reporters contact you, be sure to respond quickly with the information and resources they need.

Building A Media List

You can supplement your own research by using other resources to build a media list:

- **Internet Research:** News organization Web sites often list reporters who cover specific topics, as well as producers, assignment editors, and other key staff members. You can find these media Web sites by entering the names of your local newspapers and television stations into your favorite search engine. If crime reporters are not listed, search media sites for "crime" or "crime victim," and note the reporters who covered the stories or wrote the blogs turned up by the search.

- **Yellow and White Pages:** Phone books, as well as online white and yellow pages, still provide a wealth of information about local resources. Check yellow- and white-page listings for "newspapers," "television," or "radio" in your area. Once you have the names of all local media, you can check their Web sites or the newspapers for listings of programs that relate to criminal justice, and you can track the issues covered by those programs. You can also look for organizations that promote public safety, and find out if they have newsletters or other public outreach channels that might publicize National Crime Victims' Rights Week.
- **Social Media:** Social media such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, or LinkedIn offer great tools to research reporters and bloggers and to find trends that interest them. You can follow reporters on Twitter, research blogs on Technorati, or follow trends on Digg or Facebook Lexicon. You can collect information by sending a Tweet to your Twitter followers. You can research local businesses on Yelp and Google. Just choose a few of these media and use some of their tools to research reporters and potential audiences.
- **Libraries:** It may be worth a quick trip to the library reference room to check media directories (e.g., Bacon's, BurellsLuce) that list the latest information about producers and reporters who cover criminal justice. Some libraries also have online subscriptions that are available to anyone with a library card, and some library telephone reference services will do your "leg work" for you.

Sample News Release

The sample news release provided in this section on page 36 announces National Crime Victims' Rights Week and its theme, *Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past*. It provides template for publicizing the nationwide observance, as well as your local activities, and for alerting local media about the significance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Before you distribute your news release, you can issue a **media**

advisory (see below) that lists detailed information on your specific events and contact information for reporters. If events focus on specific groups (e.g., children, ethnic communities, older people), be sure to send your news releases and media advisories to organizations that work with those populations, as well as to the media, and list the events that would interest those groups.

Send out your NCVRW news release *at least 10 days* before your event. That lead-time will allow you to follow up with reporters, line up your spokespeople, answer questions, and assemble the background information (e.g., fact sheets, biographies, proclamations) you plan to have available at the event.

Media Advisories

Media advisories, or **media alerts**, are brief, one-page announcements of newsworthy events. Advisories can notify the media and interested parties about upcoming NCVRW events they might want to cover or attend. List the “who,” “what,” “where,” “when,” and “why” of your event. After you’ve sent out your advisory, you can follow up with reporters who might want to attend. Be sure to have fact sheets and other background information available to e-mail to reporters who express interest but might not have time to attend.

Fact Sheets

This resource guide provides extensive information about the history of the victims’ rights movement, crime trends, quotes, proclamations, and facts that will interest reporters and bloggers. Use the “Landmarks in the History of Victims’ Rights and Services” (Section 5) and “Statistical Overviews” (Section 6) to assemble fact sheets and information for reporters. Check your local newspapers and television Web sites for information on local crime trends that may complement the national trends described in Section 6. Look for unusual trends in your area. The more information you put together, the less work reporters have to do, and the greater chances you may have to get some publicity.

Sample Public Service Announcements

You can use public service announcements (PSAs) to alert members of your community about National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, and enlist their participation in NCVRW or other events. This section includes three sample scripts for a 15-second, 30-second, and 60-second PSA that you can produce with your local television or radio station, or use as a live copy script for television or radio announcers to use on the air. Be sure to include your organization’s name, phone number, Web site, and e-mail address, so that viewers and listeners can contact you if they wish.

Contacting your local media *at least two months* before National Crime Victims’ Rights Week can increase your chances that they will air your PSA. Call your stations, talk to the producer who handles PSAs, refer to local crime stories, and explain the importance of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. When you send your script or completed PSA, include a cover letter with your contact information and the reasons why National Crime Victims’ Rights Week matters to your community.

Sample OP-ED Column

Publishing an opinion column in your local newspaper or civic organization newsletter can boost the power of your NCVRW outreach. You can win thousands of supporters for National Crime Victims’ Rights Week by focusing on crimes that affect (or could affect) your community. Have robberies and burglaries spiked in your community? Has gang activity or financial fraud increased over the past year? Or have budget cuts left victims without the resources they need? Talk to your colleagues, choose an issue you are passionate about, and then write an op-ed to express your views. By showing how crime affects victims in your area, you can increase your community’s involvement in National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.


Social Media

Whatever your outreach goals, social media can help. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Flickr, and many other

Internet sites offer quick, inexpensive tools to reach a wide audience. You can link to the National Center for Victims of Crime's NCVRW Facebook page,¹ set up your own, "Tweet" about your events, and post photos on Flickr or videos on YouTube. You can join interest groups on many sites, follow policymakers and reporters, track trends, and post comments about NCVRW on blogs or after newspaper columns that relate to National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Take advantage of whatever tools you generally use to build awareness about National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Social Media Status Updates (New!): The *2011 NCVRW Resource Guide* includes a new feature that takes advantage of social media's growing influence—suggested "status updates" of brief victim-related data points for you to share with your online audience (see page 42). Each day during April, you can use a different message for your social networking site status update or your Instant Message, or to send as a tweet.

Other Media Strategies

- Contact producers, editors, or station managers by phone, e-mail, or mail ***two months in advance*** of National Crime Victims' Rights Week.
- Identify local issues or trends that might interest your local media. If you know victims who are ready to tell their stories, ask them if they would be willing to be interviewed during National Crime Victims' Rights Week.
- After your NCVRW events, send high-quality video or high-resolution photos or digital images to your local television stations or newspapers. Your media may run these photos with captions, even if they do not decide to write or air a story.
- Line up experts and spokespeople to give speeches and answer reporters' questions during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and throughout the year.
- Ask local officials to serve as master of ceremonies for your events, to give speeches, or to issue an NCVRW proclamation. Then, publicize their participation in your news release and outreach materials. 

¹ <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/National-Crime-Victims-Rights-Week/10150149778940228>.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Date]

CONTACT: [Name/Title/Agency]

[Phone number]

[E-mail]

[Your City] Joins in “Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past” for Victims of Crime

2011 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week

[City/State]—April 10, 2011, marks the beginning of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, a time to honor victims and the advocates of victims’ rights. This year’s theme—*Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past*—evokes victims’ past struggles and our nation’s duty to help them rebuild stronger lives.

For victims, reshaping the future means confronting many challenges. After a crime, victims need to know what rights and resources they can count on. They may need funds to bury a loved one or pay medical bills. They may want information on the criminal justice process, their rights to be present or heard in court, and to be notified about court proceedings and offenders’ whereabouts. Yet many victims do not find the help they need.


For victim advocates, reshaping the future—particularly in these financially stressed times—means finding ways to do more with less. It means locating resources for victims who want them and helping new victims—such as the millions harmed by financial fraud—to restore their credit and financial security. Reshaping the future requires meeting present and emerging challenges.

It also requires understanding how crime has marred the past. As we approach the tenth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, we honor the memory of the victims and their families’ struggles to rebuild a future despite their grief. We also remember the thousands of homicide victims in our nation in recent years, and the millions who live each day in fear of violence.

Honoring the past also means recalling a time, not too many years ago, when victims had no voice in the criminal justice system—when murder victims’ families were excluded from courtrooms and assault victims paid all their own medical bills. National Crime Victims’ Rights Week honors the victims and advocates who confronted such injustices and helped produce a nationwide system of victim compensation and victims’ rights. It also reminds us that failures to enforce these laws or to fund programs for victims jeopardize the success of these reforms.

“*Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past* captures the spirit and mission of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week,” said Joye E. Frost, acting director of the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. “The past that we honor points to a future when all victims are respected, the laws to protect them are enforced, and the resources they need are in place and accessible to them. Justice demands no less.”

National Crime Victims’ Rights Week will begin in Washington, DC, at the Department of Justice’s annual national Candlelight Observance Ceremony on April 7, 2011, and the Office for Victims of Crime’s Service Awards ceremony, April 8, 2011, to honor outstanding individuals and programs that serve victims of crime. [City, County, State] will observe National Crime Victims’ Rights Week with special events and programs from April 10–April 16. These activities will include [list examples and attach to the news release a summary of main events].

Each community can encourage its members to participate in the week’s events and find ways to help victims of crime. For additional information about National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, and how to help victims in your community, please contact [agency/organization] at [area code/telephone number], or visit [agency’s Web site] at [Web site address]. For more ideas on how to volunteer, visit the Office for Victims of Crime Web site, at www.ovc.gov. 


15 Seconds

Crime victims don't forget what happened to them. Neither should we. This is National Crime Victims' Rights Week—a time to honor victims and help them restore their lives. To find help for victims or to ask how you can help, call [agency number] or visit www.ncvc.org.

30 Seconds

Crime victims don't forget what happened to them. Neither should we. We should remember the victims of September 11 and their loved ones, struggling ten years later to rebuild their lives. We should remember the millions of Americans hurt by crime every day. This is National Crime Victims' Rights Week, a time to honor victims and help them restore their lives. To find help for victims or to ask how you can help, call [agency number] or visit www.ncvc.org.

60 Seconds

Crime victims don't forget what happened to them. Neither should we. This year is the tenth anniversary of September 11. We should remember the victims and their loved ones, still struggling to reshape their lives. We should remember the countless Americans hurt by violence every day, and the children afraid to go to school or out into the street. And we should remember the millions who lost their life savings to scams and financial fraud. This is National Crime Victims' Rights Week, a time to honor victims and help them restore their lives. To find help for victims or to ask how you can help, call [agency number] or visit www.ncvc.org. 



Why should people care about crime victims? National Crime Victims' Rights Week offers a great opportunity to show how crime victims' rights affect everyone. By writing an opinion piece for your local newspaper, you share victims' experiences and engage your community in *Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past*, for those harmed by crime.

What Are Op-Eds?

Op-eds are brief essays, either by newspaper editorial writers or outside contributors, that aim to persuade readers to adopt a certain viewpoint. Often published opposite the editorial page, op-eds are among the most widely read sections of most newspapers, particularly by politicians and policymakers. By writing an op-ed for your local newspaper or community organization newsletter, you can show that crime victims' rights empower citizens and help communities build stronger futures.

What Do Editors Want?

Editors seek well-written, provocative, and attention-grabbing pieces by experts about timely subjects. Expertise does not necessarily mean having an advanced degree, but rather the experience to speak with authority about the subject of the op-ed. Timeliness usually means writing about a recent news item. Yet an op-ed can actually break news if it raises an important issue not yet covered by the media. Let's say your agency has seen a dramatic upsurge in domestic violence cases, perhaps because of the economic stress so many people are experiencing. If these cases are unreported, the news media might not know about them, and your op-ed (advocating better support for these victims) could educate both the media and the public about a pressing issue. You can also establish timeliness by linking your op-ed to an anniversary (e.g., the tenth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks), an election, a holiday, or a vote in Congress or the state legislature.

What Should You Write About?

What crimes most affect your community? Have gangs attacked local youths? Have drunk drivers killed more children this year than in recent years? Has an elderly neighbor lost her life savings to a scam artist who pretended to be her friend? Scan the local newspapers, watch news broadcasts, and choose a crime featured in local media. Use that crime as a "hook" to create strong interest in what you have to say.

What Will Be Your Message?

Your goal is to show why the stories of victims and the history of the crime victims' rights movement matter to all Americans, their loved ones, and their futures. Unless they have been victimized, most people don't understand the impact of crime and the fate of victims, especially before the hard-won achievements of the victims' rights movement. They might not grasp the importance of enforcing newly won rights—such as the right of assault victims to be notified when the offender who harmed them is released from prison. They might not understand the need for better laws to combat cyber crime or better access to the Crime Victims Fund for victim services. Every American has a stake in preserving the rights and resources they would want to have if they or their families were victimized by crime.

How To Write The Op-Ed

- **Write a memorable opening:**
Example: "I never dreamed someone would steal my life savings and my home," the Smithville grandmother (86) told the police. "I have nothing left."
- **State your central argument in the first or second paragraph:**
Example: "Understanding scams against seniors can help prevent crime and protect future victims."
- **Link your op-ed to National Crime Victims' Rights Week:**
Example: "April 10–16 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week, a time to honor crime victims by doing more to protect the most vulnerable."

- **Back up your main argument with two or three points:**

Examples:

- Scams against seniors are on the rise.²
- Some seniors are especially vulnerable to scams.³
- Scams are preventable.⁴

- **Support your statements with facts, statistics, and quotes:**

Examples:

- One in five seniors is hit by money scams.⁵
- In 2008, eight percent of financial fraud victims were age 60 or older.⁶
- “Over the next 20 years, 75 million people will turn 65,” said former SEC Chair Christopher Cox. “There could be an ‘avalanche’ of investment fraud cases that may affect the broader stock market.”⁷

- **Write a memorable finish that recaps the NCVRW theme:**


Example: “By recalling past crimes to prevent future scams against seniors, we can ‘Reshape the Future’ and ‘Honor the Past’ for victims of these crimes.”

Tips on Style

- Choose short words, and write brief sentences and paragraphs.

- Limit your op-ed to 750 words (check your newspaper’s publication guidelines).
- Choose active verbs (e.g., “A financial advisor **committed** the crime” instead of “the crime **was committed** by a financial advisor”).
- Use a personal, conversational tone.
- Avoid clichés (e.g., “It’s always darkest before the dawn”) and unfamiliar abbreviations (e.g., “CFP” instead of “certified financial planner”).

How to Submit Your Op-ed

- **Approval:** If you are writing on behalf of an organization or including your organizational title in your submission, have the op-ed approved by your organization’s management.
- **Guidelines:** Check your newspaper’s guidelines on length, deadlines, method of submission (e-mail, fax, or mail), and other requirements (usually available on the newspaper’s Web site).
- **Contact information:** Include your name, address, title, phone number, and your organization’s Web site URL.
- **Cover letter:** Include your contact information in a brief cover letter that briefly explains National Crime Victims’ Rights Week and why your issue is important. 

² Jillian Jorgenson, “More Scam Artists Targeting the Elderly,” Eagle Tribune, August 29, 2010, <http://www.eagletribune.com/newhampshire/x329609411/More-scam-artists-targeting-the-elderly> (accessed September 7, 2010).

³ Natalie L. Denburg and Lyndsay Harshman, B.S., “Why So Many Seniors Get Swindled: Brain Anomalies and Poor Decision-making in Older Adults,” www.dana.org/news/cerebrum/detail.aspx?id=23106 (accessed September 5, 2010).

⁴ David Tuttle, “Elder Exploitation Preventable,” [http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Elder+exploitation+preventable\(COMMENTARY\)-a0189542720](http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Elder+exploitation+preventable(COMMENTARY)-a0189542720) (accessed September 5, 2010).

⁵ Investor Protection Trust, IPT Elder Investor Fraud Survey, 2010, <http://www.investorprotection.org/learn/research/?fa=eiffeSurvey> (accessed September 5, 2010).

⁶ Federal Trade Commission, “Consumer Fraud and Identity Theft Complaint Data: January – December 2008,” 8.

⁷ Robert Schroeder, “New Defenses Urged against Elder Investment Fraud,” Marketwatch, July 17, 2006, <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/new-defenses-urged-against-elder-investment-fraud> (accessed September 7, 2010).

For Seniors, No “Retirement” from Online Vigilance

National Crime Victims’ Rights Week: “Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past”

“Hi, Grandma, it’s your favorite grandson,” says the urgent e-mail. “I’m in a big jam. I’ve had a serious accident in California, and I need \$10,000 right away. Can you help me out?” Grandma wires the \$10,000 to her “grandson” and never recovers the funds.

As the number of seniors online increases, so will their vulnerability to scams. Although once seen as “cyber-phobic,” seniors are spending more time online for more purposes—such as shopping, banking, and research. Internet users ages 50 to 64 grew by 88 percent between 2009 and 2010,⁸ and 45 percent of seniors ages 70 to 75 use social networking.⁹ Experts expect these trends to increase substantially as the oldest baby boomers begin reaching 65 next year.

Just as the older population is soaring,¹⁰ the cost of Internet fraud is on the rise. In 2009, U.S. citizens lost more than \$550 million—twice as much as in 2008—to Internet fraud.¹¹ Experts at the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), which tracks worldwide Internet crime, cite increased sophistication by criminals, who take full advantage of the anonymity offered by the Internet. Scams involving phishing and spam (identity theft tools)—as well as traditional scams transferred to the Internet¹²—snag more victims of all ages every year. AARP President W. Lee Hammond testified before Congress that “more than three of five fraud victims in one 2008 study, had been contacted by e-mail or Internet,”¹³ making the crimes difficult to investigate and prosecute.

Seniors are attractive targets for all types of scams. People age 55 and older control roughly 70 percent of the nation’s household wealth and often have large nest eggs sitting dormant in bank accounts, as well as large amounts of equity in their homes.¹⁴ Seniors are less likely than other groups to review their credit card or other financial statements for signs of fraud¹⁵ and to report fraud because of shame and fear of being judged incompetent.¹⁶ A 2009 report by the MetLife Mature Market Institute found that for every report of financial exploitation, four or more go unreported, and that elder financial abuse costs an estimated \$2.6 billion each year.¹⁷

These crimes require immediate action. National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (April 10–16)—with its theme *Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past*—is an opportune time to highlight Internet fraud against seniors and other emerging crimes. The theme encourages us to use the lessons of the past (such as the power of grassroots activism to change laws and policies) to thwart current and future crimes. We can insist on stronger laws, more effective enforcement, and stronger sentences for Internet fraud against seniors. We can ask the media to sound the alarm about these crimes, and we can better equip seniors to protect themselves

⁸ Mary Madden, “Report: Seniors, Social Networking—Older Adults and Social Media,” (Pew Research Center, August 27, 2010).

⁹ Sydney Jones and Susannah Fox, “Generations Online in 2009,” (Pew Internet & American Life Project, January 2009), <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1093/generations-online> (accessed September 10, 2010).

¹⁰ Eric L. Carlson, “Phishing for Elderly Victims: As the Elderly Migrate to the Internet, Fraudulent Schemes Targeting Them Follow,” *The Elder Law Journal* 14 (2006).

¹¹ Los Angeles Times, “Cost of Internet Fraud on Steep Rise,” March 15, 2010, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/14/AR2010031403246_pf.html (accessed September 10, 2010).

¹² E.g., investment, auction, work-at-home, Nigerian scams.

¹³ “Rep. Robert C. Scott Holds a Hearing on Senior Financial Fraud Protection,” *Political Transcript Wire* (May 28, 2010).

¹⁴ Carlson, “Phishing for Elderly Victims.”

¹⁵ Susannah Fox, “Are ‘Wired Seniors’ Sitting Ducks?” (PewResearchCenter Publications, April 11, 2006), <http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2006/Are-Wired-Seniors-Sitting-Ducks.aspx> (accessed September 10, 2010).


¹⁶ Carlson, “Phishing for Elderly Victims.”

¹⁷ MetLife Mature

The public can demand stronger laws to criminalize and penalize such crimes. The 2010 federal Elder Justice Act, for example, establishes an Elder Justice Coordinating Council to recommend how federal, state, local, and private agencies can work together to protect seniors from exploitation. Other recently proposed federal laws would crack down on financial fraud, increase awareness of criminal activities, and tighten penalties for scammers.¹⁸ Judges who refuse to tolerate such crimes, like the Maryland judge who last year imposed the harshest penalty on a man who swindled \$189,000 from an elderly widow, can help reduce financial exploitation of vulnerable seniors.¹⁹

We can also strongly urge that the media publicize these crimes. Although Internet schemes attract considerable media attention, only a trickle of articles on Internet fraud against seniors has appeared over the past few years. Newspapers can cover this issue more extensively, and television stations can air public service announcements to alert older people about current scams and where to get help if they are victimized. The more seniors and their families know about online fraud, the better they can protect themselves.

Finally, communities can coordinate efforts to protect seniors from online fraud. Community college computer education programs can teach participants about online fraud, and public libraries can teach safe Internet use. Businesses can offer creative programs like British Telecommunications' Grandparents Day, which recruits young people ("Internet Rangers") to teach seniors about computer usage and Internet fraud. Such efforts engage younger people in serving the community while protecting elders from destructive fraud.

By mobilizing to prevent fraud against seniors, we can *reshape the future and honor the past* during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and the years to come. Reducing online fraud against seniors helps create a safer future for all Americans. 

¹⁸ Senior Financial Empowerment Act of 2010 (Senate) and 2009 (House of Representatives).

¹⁹ Dan Morse, "Rockville Man Sentenced to Three Years in Prison for Swindling Elderly Couple," The Washington Post, August 31, 2010, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/30/AR2010083004587.html> (accessed September 10, 2010).

Social Media: New Avenues For Outreach

Social media is a great way to reach a large audience quickly and effectively. You can use these tools to share information and opinions, track trends, and talk with colleagues in your neighborhood, your state, your country, and throughout the world. You can use Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and other sites to share your NCVRW messages, update your audience, and respond to questions and comments from anyone who responds to your messages. You can also post podcasts and other media on YouTube, share photos on Flickr, and use your blog (or comment on someone else's blog) about National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Whatever your NCVRW goals, social media will help you engage a wide audience in *Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past* this year.

Social Media Status Updates (New!)

Below is a list of suggested "status updates" for you to share with your online audience. Each day during April, you can use a different message for your Facebook status update or as announcements on your other social media sites.

- *April 1, 2011:* National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 10-16, 2011. Learn more about the impact of crime on our country at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw.
- *April 2, 2011:* Need ideas for a 2011 NCVRW event in your community? Check out the *2011 NCVRW Resource Guide* at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2011.
- *April 3, 2011:* The entire *2011 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide* is available for free download. Find it at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2011.
- *April 4, 2011:* More than 90,000 crimes were reported to police on college and university campuses in 2009. Find out more at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2011.
- *April 5, 2011:* April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Find out more at www.nsvrc.org/saam.
- *April 6, 2011:* Did you know that 20 million Americans became crime victims last year, but fewer than half reported the crime to police? Find out more at <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2217>.
- *April 7, 2011:* If you are in Washington, DC, today, join us for the 2011 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Candlelight Vigil at 6:30 p.m. Find out more at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw.
- *April 8, 2011:* Today, Attorney General Eric Holder honored victim survivors, organizations, and advocates at the 2011 National Crime Victims' Service Awards Ceremony. Find out more at www.ovc.gov/gallery.
- *April 9, 2011:* Need a video for your 2011 National Crime Victims' Rights Week event? Download the 2011 NCVRW Theme video at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2011.
- *April 10, 2011:* Today marks the start of 2011 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, *Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past*. Find out more at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw.
- *April 11, 2011:* Persons with disabilities are victimized by crime at a rate twice that of persons without disabilities. Check out current crime statistics at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2011.
- *April 12, 2011:* The sixth National Sexual Assault Response Team conference will be held May 25-27, 2011, in Austin, Texas. For more information, visit www.sartconference.com/Conference.php.
- *April 13, 2011:* The Victim Oral History Project captures the evolution and inspiration of the crime victims' rights movement. Learn more at <http://vroh.uakron.edu/index.php>.
- *April 14, 2011:* In 1994, Congress passed the historic Violence Against Women Act, ushering in a new era of combating sexual assault, domestic violence, and other crimes.
- *April 15, 2011:* The first "National Crime Victims' Rights Week" was proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in April 1981.
- *April 16, 2011:* As 2011 National Crime Victims' Rights Week comes to end, find out how you can continue helping victims throughout the year by visiting www.crimevictims.gov.

- *April 17, 2011:* The 37th National Organization for Victim Assistance Conference will be held August 14-17, 2011, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For more information, visit www.trynova.org/conference/37th.
- *April 18, 2011:* Have you experienced Internet fraud? The Internet Crime Complaint Center Web site can help at www.ic3.gov.
- *April 19, 2011:* If you are a crime victim, you may qualify for victim compensation to help rebuild your life. Learn more at www.nacvcb.org.
- *April 20, 2011:* Youth and teenagers are victimized by crime at higher rates than any other age group. Check out current crime statistics at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2011.
- *April 21, 2011:* Stalking is a crime under the laws of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Territories, and the Federal government. For more information, visit www.ncvc.org/src/Main.aspx#stalker.
- *April 22, 2011:* Don't miss the 2011 info-packed conference of the National Center for Victims of Crime. For more info, visit www.ncvc.org.
- *April 23, 2011:* Did you know that the vast majority of stalking victims are ordinary citizens, not celebrities? Find out more at www.ncvc.org/src.
- *April 24, 2011:* Federal revenues deposited into the Crime Victims Fund come from criminal fines, forfeitures, special assessments, and gifts or donations—no taxpayer contributions. More information at www.ovc.gov/about/victimsfund.html.
- *April 25, 2011:* Stalking is a crime under the laws of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Territories, and the Federal government. Find out more at www.ncvc.org/src.
- *April 26, 2011:* More than 60 percent of children from birth to 17 years of age have been victims of or witnessed an act of violence within a one-year period. Find more statistics at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw2011.
- *April 27, 2011:* Did you know that an extensive, user-friendly online searchable database of federal, state, and tribal victim laws is available at www.victimlaw.info?
- *April 28, 2011:* Crime rates in 2009 were at the lowest levels recorded since 1973, the first year that such data were collected. For federal report, visit <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2217>.
- *April 29, 2011:* Learn about victim assistance-related events in your community or add your own conference, training opportunity, ceremony, or other occasion. Learn more at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovccalendar>.
- *April 30, 2011:* If you or someone you know is a victim of crime, there is help. Please call the National Crime Victim Helpline at 1-800-FYI-CALL (1-800-394-2255) or e-mail gethelp@ncvc.org. 